

## How to redo a Cathedral spire: start in the middle and work both ways

Architects have stratagem for \$4.87-million spire project

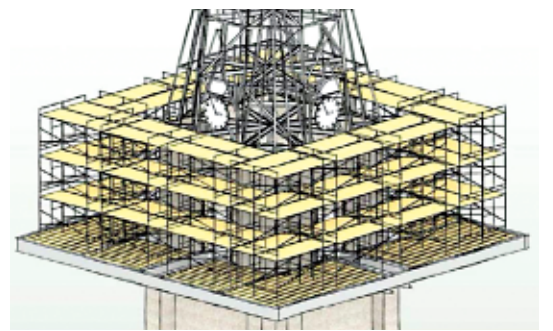
Architects pondering how to replace the aging spire of Christ Church Cathedral think they have an answer to some major conundrums.

According to a feasibility study presented to active parishioners in April, a key element of the solution would avoid the need for a huge and unsightly scaffold up the outside of the cathedral that would overstress parts of the concrete slab on which the whole cathedral sits. Instead, there would be a modest and inconspicuous – comparatively speaking – platform part way up the stone tower under the metal spire.

The proposal by the EVOQ Architecture firm (known until this year as Fournier Gersovitz Moss Drolet et associés) is that, probably in 2018, scaffolding will be *suspended* from the platform for work to refurbish the masonry of the lower part of the tower.

Then, when that is completed, scaffolding will be *mounted* on the

*continued on page 3*



## Former Dio principal hailed for defending theology at McGill

But ‘faculty’ of theology becomes ‘school’ of theology

HARVEY SHEPHERD

The Montreal Diocesan Theological College paid homage last month to its former principal – and not least for what a colleague described as a long and so far successful struggle to ward off a threat to the survival of theology and vocational training for clergy at McGill University.

“The academy and the Church are not easy bedfellows,” the Rev. Professor Patricia Kirkpatrick said, presenting the Rev. Canon John Simons, principal between 1991 and 2015 to the college convocation May 2 to receive an honorary doctorate of divinity.

“Indeed, they normally end up opposing one another on the battlefield of presumed intellectual freedom or confessional obligation.”

The most recent threat, she said, followed the untimely death in 2015 of the Rev. Dr. Ellen Aitken, dean of the Faculty of Religious Studies, a partner with Dio and its Presbyterian and United Church counterparts in a consortium called the Montreal School of Theology.

“When in 1991 Dr. Simons agreed to become this college’s principal, he quickly became enmeshed with the machinations of a university administration intent on ridding itself of theology and a vocational degree program, Dr. Kirkpatrick said.

“When facing such a substantial opponent with such deep pockets it is as well to have someone at hand who can so very competently speak of the University’s need for the disciplines of theology but even

more their need for a place to reflect on matters of theistic and spiritual realities.

“John proved to be an exceptional defender of the disciplines of theology both then and most recently in 2014, when with the death of Dean Ellen Aitken the university sought again to destroy the base of theology in the academy. Although Dr. Simons retired before the final results of this latest battle we have an inordinate gratitude to bestow on him for his unceasing energy and wit which preserved the teaching of theology here at McGill at least for another generation.”

(Last month, the university launched a new School of Religious Studies in the Faculty of Arts. The new “school” carries on many of the programs and activities of the former Faculty of Religious Studies.

(Speaking at the convocation, Dr. Simons’ successor as principal, the Rev. Dr. Donald Boisvert, described the agreement behind the decision as a “difficult and painful” one but also a “wise and forward-looking” one that bears hope for years to come.)

Presenting Dr. Simons to the convocation, Professor Kirkpatrick gave credit to the bilingual upbringing of his early years in Baie Comeau for the way his “reflections and analyses have been finely tuned to the desires and aspirations of a Gospel people located in North America’s only francophone megacity.”

“However global may have been his subject areas they were always bound to a particular time and space.”

Another theme of Professor



The Rev. Canon John Simons gets congratulations and an honorary degree from Bishop Mary Irwin-Gibson, president of the Montreal Diocesan Theological College. The current principal, the Rev. Dr. Donald Boisvert is between them.

(Photo:Harvey Shepherd)

Kirkpatrick’s citation – and a theme of Dr. Simons’ own address at the convocation – was joy.

“That laughter which speaks of joy and allows that joy of the Gospel to be announced to the world is what so many of John’s students responded to and flocked to hear from his sermons,” Professor Kirkpatrick said.

Dr. Simons himself said in his

address that the most attractive thing about Christian life, the one that most fully transforms the soul, is joy.

While evil and suffering may make joy seem frivolous, joy is also linked to human vulnerability, he said.

Dr. Simons, now teaching a course in the Religious Studies

Department of Mount Allison University, Sackville, N.B., as well as continuing his studies and writing, described ordinary joys in earthly life as the “self-attunement of the soul” to the more complete joy promised by God. He wished college graduates a future ministry “that will be not just satisfying but wonderful.”



### MOUNEER HANNA ANIS

Archbishop Mouneer Anis is the Diocesan Bishop of the Anglican Diocese of Egypt with North Africa and the Horn of Africa, and the Primate of the Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East. He was interviewed this summer by Jonathan Widell, a student at the Montreal Diocesan Theological College. See Page 9.



### PETER HUISH

The Rev. Peter Huish reports on a new name and structure for an informal organization that for over 16 years has worked with people who have been in prison. See Page 4.



### ERIC FOX

A stalwart of the tiny St. Martin’s Parish in the South Shore community of Otterburn Park became the first recipient of the Certificate in Theology of the ecumenical Montreal School of Theology after completing a five-year postgraduate-level course. For more on the Convocation of the Montreal Diocesan Theological College, see Page 5.



### HARVEY SHEPHERD

For more about him, see Pages 2 and 5.



### JENNIFER HENRY

An ecumenical social justice activist will be among keynote speakers at this year’s diocesan synod. The focus will be on truth and reconciliation. See Page 3.

# Bishop's Message



The planting season is in full swing. Signs of growth are all around us in nature and also in our Diocese. There continues to be evidence of hope and life as we proclaim and live the Good News in this province of Québec. Early in May, many of us in the Diocese travelled to the Diocese of Quebec for the consecration of Bruce Myers as bishop. As well, by the time you read this the Diocese of Montreal will have five priests and one new deacon who were ordained in Christ Church Cathedral on Pentecost Sunday.

Our updated 2020vision has taken shape and we can identify five key goals: 1. Discipleship; 2. Parish Financial Health; 3. Vital Church Development; 4. Leadership Development and 5. Diocesan Structures

You can find 2020vision on our Diocesan web site [www.montreal.anglican.ca](http://www.montreal.anglican.ca).

I hope that you will look at it and discuss it in your parishes. These are important targets to work towards, and we believe they will lead to greater vitality throughout our Diocese.

Particularly dear to my heart is discipleship. I was glad to find a new document published this year by the Anglican Consultative Council entitled *Intentional Discipleship and Disciple-Making: An Anglican Guide for Christian Life and Formation*. It points to intentional discipleship as a fundamental key to the health and vitality of the church. It can be downloaded as a PDF from the web site [www.anglicancommunion.org/media/220191/intentional-discipleship-and-disciple-making-an-anglican-guide-230316-.pdf](http://www.anglicancommunion.org/media/220191/intentional-discipleship-and-disciple-making-an-anglican-guide-230316-.pdf).

In the next couple of weeks we'll gather as a family for our annual Diocesan Synod. This year is a one-day business synod where we will deal with the day-to-day priorities of our diocese: continuing to work on our financial health, looking at ways to invest in and strengthen ministry and worshiping the Creator who gives us life and loves us. We will also gather to continue our discernment of how to reconcile with our Aboriginal brothers and sisters.

"Truth and Reconciliation: Anglicans respond" is the theme of this year's synod on June 18th. It is the first year of this next triennium where we will listen, study and discern how we as a community can move forward with the First Nations people, responding to the Call to Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Report. Guests from within the diocese and from other parts of the country will join us to help stimulate discussion and look forward to how we might respond as a Diocese and a Church.

You will find in this issue of *Anglican Montreal* more information about speakers and the synod. Details of the synod proper, agendas, speaker biographies, extracts from the Truth and Reconciliation Report and the Calls to Action, the convening circular and registration forms can all be found on our Diocesan web page at [www.montreal.anglican.ca/synod](http://www.montreal.anglican.ca/synod). If you are a delegate to synod, please ensure that you are registered.

I am grateful for the signs of life and hope in our Diocese and for the commitment and hard work of so many of you. Please keep your parish and our Diocese in your prayers.

Every blessing,

+ Mary

## A note from the editor

This issue of *Anglican Montreal* precedes our usual summer break, although it will be a busy summer for news.

Some readers may recall that in the past the national *Anglican Journal*, to whose publishing schedule our own is tied, sometimes adjusted its publishing schedule when there was a General Synod in the summer. But, while our own diocesan synod is June 18 and there will be a General Synod July 7-12 in Toronto, there will be no change on that account in the publishing schedule of the *Journal* or *Anglican Montreal*. Readers will receive both at about the beginning of September.

Times have changed. For one thing, readers will be able to get news about the synods from one or another of several online sources. There's the online version of the *Journal* at [www.anglicanjournal.com](http://www.anglicanjournal.com), the *Anglican Journal* website at [www.anglican.ca](http://www.anglican.ca), our own diocesan website at [montreal.anglican.ca](http://montreal.anglican.ca) and our new weekly diocesan e-news, sent every Wednesday by email to a growing list of contacts across the

diocese. (If you would like to receive it, send an email to [programme.office@montreal.anglican.ca](mailto:programme.office@montreal.anglican.ca).)

But more changes than that are on the way. As previously reported, I am retiring as editor of *Anglican Montreal* this month, after nine years on the job. I'm handing over my responsibilities to Nicki Hronjak (acting as Interim Editor) our Program Administrator at the diocese, who I have greatly enjoyed working with throughout my years as editor and who is also responsible for the diocesan website (along with Simon Pelletier, Web and social media coordinator) and for the new e-news, along with a number of other diocesan responsibilities.

This will clearly be a big addition to already onerous responsibilities she carries, even though the impact will be somewhat reduced by the elimination of some duplication of effort. For example both the newspaper and the online publications now carry advance information about upcoming events, from worship services to bazaars. For these, our online media are going to be-

come a more important vehicle, and the newspaper less important.

I can say with regret, but also with a degree of comprehension, that *Anglican Montreal* is going to shoulder some of the burden of a need to cut costs. Instead of coming out 10 times a year, it is expected that it will come out four times a year. Subscribers will receive the *Anglican Journal* monthly, except July and August, as at present, but only four issues will include *Anglican Montreal* as an insert.

As she strives to do better with less and over a broader range of responsibilities Nicki will be relying heavily on contributors across the diocese. Please do what you can.

Please also let me express my appreciation for our collaboration over the years, for Ted Sancton now of Studio Melrose, who has worked with me and my predecessor to lay out *Anglican Montreal* for decades, and for the precious collaboration I have received from people across the Diocese of Montreal, too numerous to mention.

HARVEY SHEPHERD

## The Anglican Fellowship of Prayer – Canada A Prayer from the Diocesan Representatives



Gracious God, this month we pray for the Diocesan Synod, the planning committee, the support staff and all the delegates. We pray to you for wisdom and guidance as we gather to discuss the business of the church. You call us to be a Gospel people yet when our thoughts to turn to standard motions and financial issues we lose our focus and dwell on earthly perspectives. Forgive us this flaw dear Lord and keep reminding us to return to the kingdom values. This year's theme includes sincere reflection and learning on the outcomes of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. God of justice and mercy, we pray that you will push us into action and help us effect the changes called for by the TRC.

Brothers and sisters in Christ, we are requesting that you join us in earnest prayer, either individually or in groups, as we pray for the Diocesan Synod and the General Synod to follow. Both gatherings are very important and many significant issues will be put before the delegates. Our collective prayer is for God's wisdom and guidance to be felt at these events and, especially, during important discussions and votes.

We would also like to offer prayers of thanksgiving for Mr. Harvey Shepherd and his kind co-operation in giving the Anglican Fellowship of Prayer so much prominence in Anglican Montreal. We will miss him very much but are happy that he is going to give himself a well-deserved retirement. We pray that all will be well with him and his family. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

**For more information on AFP-C, contact  
Valerie Bennett and Stacey Neale  
at [valstacey@bell.net](mailto:valstacey@bell.net)**

**Saturday, June 18th  
In Fulford Hall  
9am-4pm**

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For the parent left behind.

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Official, Editorially  
Autonomous Newspaper of  
the Diocese of Montreal

**Deadline for September  
issue: August 1**

**Editor:** Harvey Shepherd

**Editorial Assistance:** Peter Denis – **Circulation:** Ardyth Robinson

**Production:** Studio Melrose

**Editorial Office:** 1444 Union Avenue, Montreal, QC H3A 2B8

Phone: 514 843-6577 – Fax: 514 843-6344

E-mail: [editor@montreal.anglican.ca](mailto:editor@montreal.anglican.ca)

Published monthly except July and August.

The Montreal Anglican accepts display advertising.

Rates are available on request.

For subscription changes contact your parish secretary or send the information to: Anglican Journal, 80 Hayden St, Toronto, ON M4Y 3G2.

416-924-9199 or 1-866-924-9192 Ext. 245/259

E-mail: [circulation@national.anglican.ca](mailto:circulation@national.anglican.ca)

[www.anglicanjournal.com/subscribe](http://www.anglicanjournal.com/subscribe)

Anglican Journal & Montreal Anglican \$10.00 per year.

A section of Anglican Journal.

Legal deposit: National Library of Quebec, National Library of Canada  
Printed and mailed by Webnews Printing Inc., North York, ON

# Learning the story and becoming part of the restoration and search for balance

## Montreal Diocesan Synod June 18: A synod of truth and reconciliation

BRIAN PERRON

*The Rev. Brian Perron is writing on behalf of the Synod planning committee.*

Our annual Synod meeting this year is a one-day event. It will be a time for many to witness news personally and to restore friendly relations among sister churches and an opportunity to harmonize our belief and knowledge in search of a congruent balance among our neighbours from within our parishes and across the country. As we move ahead with guidelines from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, we and those around us will come into a new harmony, a harmony steeped in wisdom formed through documented truth.

The Synod planning committee has invited special guest speakers and panelists to our Synod in order to bring our diocese quickly into the call to action of the TRC. Our qualified speakers in the morning session will highlight the perspectives of the aboriginal peoples, what our federal legal system has been called to do and what we the Church must know and act on to truly reconcile with our brothers and sisters.

### The aboriginal perspective on the report

Our diocesan partner from British Columbia, the Territory of the People (known until recently as the Anglican Parishes of the Central Interior) under the leadership of Bishop Barbara Andrews will again partner with us. Barbara, who is of Métis descent, has first-hand knowledge from her father, Henry White,

who was from the Cree Nation and was a residential school survivor. Barbara understands deeply the plight of the aboriginal people in the West and across the country; what they endured, what they have been doing themselves to reconcile and where together we can hope to go.

### Legal implications from a federal point of view

What important legal opinions will govern how we as a country act upon reconciliation? Catherine Irwin-Gibson, an Ontario consultant in Canada Public Policy, will share her extensive legal experience working with First Nations. Catherine brings an understanding of implemented federal law that incorporates a vision that includes long-term positive achievements promoting First Nations' strengths and values. We must be informed to ensure that dialogues for reconciliation will continue, so that a legacy lost will be restored to all Canadians. And now, after all these years, knowing the truth and knowing the federal responsibility from the past and today, how can we collectively as a church partner reconcile with, and love our neighbour?

### How the church has responded so far

The Ven. Dr. Michael Thompson, General Secretary of the Anglican Church of Canada, is enthusiastic about the growing relationships from spontaneous local reaction to the national priority of reconciliation. He says, "Sometimes at the national level we have access to resources and services that could support and facilitate the work of local congregations in ways that will help them see the broader national picture as well." Michael goes on to say, "What we'd like is for people in parishes to know



Bishop Barbara Andrews with Bishop Mary Irwin-Gibson at the Montreal diocesan synod last fall.



The Ven. Dr. Michael Thompson

we're listening, we're aware of what's going on." Michael will call us to imagine national support for our parishes willing to minister to the needs of reconciliation. He will speak not only to the big picture of the school crisis, but will teach us in ways that will encourage us to seek truth in all we do, thereby placing ourselves in a position of wisdom and knowledge for true reconciliation, individually, within our church among parishes and within the diocese.

### Where are we going and how will this build our future?

The three morning presentations will prepare us for a panel discussion in the afternoon. Barbara, Michael and Catherine will be back to field questions along with Jennifer Henry, who currently serves as the Executive Director of KAIROS: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives. As the manager of various teams, Jennifer focuses on education and animation, organizational development, human rights for Indigenous people, gender and migrant justice. With this kind



Jennifer Henry, KAIROS Ecumenical Justice Initiatives

of experience and background we'll discuss how learning and implementing reconciliation can and must cross many platforms within our church life and mission.

We the church has been mandated to reconcile, we have the tools, knowledge and wisdom to make a difference where we are. We invite you to read the articles concerning



Catherine Irwin-Gibson, consultant in Canada Public Policy (and, yes, daughter of Bishop Mary Irwin-Gibson)

the TRC. Then, come out on June 18th motivated to get involved in discussions that will move us all to a place of peace and harmony. Register now and bring members of your church; see what we are up to for this year's Synod; visit: [www.montreal.anglican.ca/synod](http://www.montreal.anglican.ca/synod).

## Treasurer urges closer scrutiny of diocesan spending

While keeping a closer eye on whether the finances of parishes in the Diocese of Montreal are sustainable, the diocese also needs to scrutinize whether its own financial performance is sustainable, its new treasurer says.

Ron O'Connell, who took over as treasurer in September, said at the April meeting of the Diocesan Council that, because of such factors as longer-term growth in the investments in the diocesan reserves, annual losses for the diocese in a range of \$250,000-\$300,000 are

probably sustainable but losses of \$712,800 reported for 2014 and \$642,230 in 2015 are not.

The 2016 budget, approved by the diocesan synod last September, foresees a loss of only \$189,833, but Mr. O'Connell noted that this includes a provision of \$500,000 for gains on the sale of churches and other properties and this could turn out to be too optimistic.

For one thing, he said, there could be an indirect effect from the success of residents around the site of the former Church of St. Columba

in the Notre Dame de Grâce district of Montreal in blocking a proposed rezoning to permit the sale of the former church for condominium development. There is no immediate effect on the diocese, since the diocese sold the church to developers in 2013.

However, Mr. O'Connell said the widely publicized success of the residents' group in holding up the condominium development could make other developers more wary about buying disused churches.

## Cathedral spire...

*continued from page 1*  
platform and the masonry on the upper part of the tower will be restored.

Work will also get under way on replacing the supporting structure of the metal spire itself.

This task will have two parts. About the top half of the spire will be detached from the lower, hoisted by what a Cathedral newsletter described as "a very very large crane" and hauled away to a workshop. The lower part of the spire would be dismantled where it is, using the scaffold on the platform, and removed piece by piece.

The "very very large crane" would return in 2020 to replace both the lower and the upper parts.

The Cathedral's original spire was built of stone, but proved too heavy for the foundations. The current spire is actually made of aluminium panels shaped to replicate the old spire - an architectural innovation dating to 1939-1940. The aluminium panels themselves are intact, but they are mounted on a steel structure. These two metals interact chemically with each other, and climate has also taken its toll, leading to serious corrosion. Hence the plan

to dismantle the spire and build a new central structure to hold those panels in place.

An \$8-million capital campaign to cover this work and other Cathedral renovation, which has been low-key up to now, is to swing into high gear in the fall. About \$4.87 million of this would be for the spire, including the masonry tower. Another \$1,856,000 would go to repair the exterior and the roof and to upgrade the electrical system, heating and lighting, and a further \$744,000 to refurbish the interior. Major restoration of the Karl Wilhelm organ and replacement of the concert piano will add \$180,000 to the campaign goal and enhance the Cathedral's rich musical tradition. About \$100,000 will be required to make the mezzanine handicapped-accessible. Finally, \$250,000 will be used to endow the 100-year-old Social Service Society, so it can broaden its community outreach.

The total would include some government funds. The Cathedral expects in particular that the Quebec government, through its Conseil du patrimoine religieux, will fund some of the urgent repairs.



Diocesan Treasurer Ron O'Connell addresses the treasurers, wardens and clergy who turned out for a morning meeting and lunch with the bishop May 7. This was organized and run by the Diocesan Stewardship Council and more than 60 people participated.

## Tools and tips for Treasurers

# Bruce Myers moves toward episcopacy of Quebec



The consecration of Bishop Bruce Myers, who is to be the next bishop of the Diocese of Quebec, took place May 5 at the Cathedral of The Holy Trinity, Quebec City. The service was in English, French and Naskapi and friends from all over the church in Canada and beyond were present to celebrate the day including many from the Diocese of Montreal. In this photo are lay reader

Susan Mameanskum-Nabinicaboo, Bishop Bruce Myers, Bishop Dennis Drainville (the current bishop), the Rev Deacon Silas Nabinicaboo. Silas and his wife Susan serve in St. John's, Kawawachikamach.

(Photo: Mary Irwin Gibson)

## Ministry to released, paroled prisoners gets a new name

### Ministry launched at the end of 1999

A ministry that since the end of 1999 has worked for the reintegration into society of people who have been in prison has incorporated and re-named itself as *Mouvement Communitas Inc.*

The ministry has chosen a name that comes from the world of anthropology and suggests "a number of things that apply to our ministry," the Rev. Canon Peter Huish says in a report to this month's diocesan synod.

Activities of the group include support groups for sexual offenders seeking not to reoffend and a weekly gathering in Fulford Hall of people who have been in prison for various offences. Both rely heavily on volunteers.

Deacon Huish describes *communitas* as "an in-between place where there is a sacred experience of togetherness by those who find themselves in shared movement from one social reality to another – much as we experience life together in our project where seeing each other face to face, accompaniment and walking together have priority over conventional dividers such as status, role, or rank."

He adds, "We have always known that we are intentional about a style of sociality that follows if we take seriously the gospel call to welcome the stranger.

"The name simply captures better the spirit of our endeavour over the years, which continues – perhaps now with some new images and terms that will help us in speaking of it, and which may render us more visible to our wider community.

"We are hopeful that more solutions will be found to meet the challenges of funding work like ours at *Communitas*, assisting the transition of ex-prisoners to life in the community."

These include Open Door, the weekly community gathering in Fulford Hall on Tuesday evenings, Circles of Support and Accountability, which require a dedicated, private meeting space, a weekly gathering for lunch and conversation, and movie nights.

"Given the informal, fluid and transitional sense of *Communitas*, 'incorporation' may appear incongruous.... It is true that our more organic and *ad hoc* style of governance during our earlier years has corresponded well with our mission and work but the decision is important for what incorporation will add – qualifying us for funding by government and a variety of foundations and charities, and bringing into our community more gifted resource people to assist in governance, development and in the work of community-making itself.

Deacon Huish invites those

interested to visit the website at [www.communitasmontreal.org](http://www.communitasmontreal.org) or call 514-244-6147 with comments and questions and to pray for *Communitas* and those it serves.

### Two from Montreal attend Ask & Imagine 2016

Élodie Lambert and Lee-Ann Matthews from the Diocese of Montreal attended the Ask & Imagine event at Huron University College as scholar and mentor, respectively, between May 7 and 14. Ask & Imagine is an experiential university-based leadership development program at the intersection of faith and culture and Lee-Ann described it as an amazing opportunity for deepening theological understanding and learning in Youth Ministry. "Both scholar and mentor were enriched by the experience. It was inspiring to be in community with 18 scholars from across Canada and a team of mentors under the capable leadership of Judy Steers.

Élodie and Lee-Ann will be bringing their new-found theological perspectives, insights and innovations to their parishes and to the diocese as leaders of children's and youth ministry in Montreal.

## Great news from Crosstalk Ministries!



### Helping people of all ages become strong disciples of Jesus Christ

VALERIE TAYLOR

*Valerie Taylor is day camps director of Crosstalk Ministries.*

Crosstalk Ministries has lots to celebrate this summer. We are preparing for the 45th Anniversary of Senior Youth Camp and the relaunching of Junior Youth Camp.

Both of these residential camps will take place the week of August 14-20 on sites in the Eastern Townships. JYC is open to Campers ages 8-12 and SYC for ages 13-18. Our Day Camp Program also has an exciting summer ahead.

Six Teams of fully trained young people (ages 15 and up) will travel to

five provinces across Canada leading week-long Day Camps in host churches, including five First Nations and three Armed Forces Bases.

The 2016 program theme is "Signposts", featuring stories from the Gospel of John.

There are a couple of spaces still available for host churches in the Montreal region and we are currently receiving applications for Travelling Team Members (ages 15 and up) For details and applications forms for residential camps, team members and host churches visit our website [www.crosstalkministries.ca](http://www.crosstalkministries.ca) or contact the CTM office: [office@crosstalkministries.ca](mailto:office@crosstalkministries.ca), 514-484-1414.

(The photo shows the 2014 travelling team of Crosstalk Ministries.)

# Decision to retire caps rewarding career

## Editor compared to shrewd detective

SUSAN WINN

*The ubiquitous and energetic Susan Winn has been among Harvey Shepherd's most faithful sources of news, photos and insight.*

Mr. Harvey Shepherd has spent a lifetime as a journalist, reporting for newspapers across Canada. He was appointed editor of the *Montreal Anglican* in June, 2007, succeeding the Rev. Canon Joan Shanks. Harvey was well known for his work as a reporter for the *Montreal Gazette* between 1979 and 2003, when he devoted about half his reporting efforts to writing religious news and columns. Montreal's diocesan publication, now known as *Anglican Montreal*, has provided Montreal churchgoers with lively and colourful reporting of diocesan and parish events for ten months of each year. In order to accomplish this task Harvey has become a friend to many, and could be spotted lurking in church venues in order to photograph every major diocesan event. In fact, some of his colleagues have likened him to Columbo, the shrewd detective who always managed to secure the evidence needed, despite

his unassuming appearance.

Those who work closely with Harvey know that he is a "night owl", who arrives at the office in the midafternoon and works into the evening. When Harvey began editing the diocesan newspaper a few years after leaving *The Gazette*, the biggest change he noticed was getting used to working largely alone. He has enjoyed the creative freedom and has "met so many interesting people." Providing occasional reports to the national *Anglican Journal*, especially its online version, has provided an additional challenge. The *Anglican Journal* and diocesan papers including *Anglican Montreal*, which are printed together with the *Journal*, have undergone numerous adjustments with a transfer to a new firm for printing, stricter deadlines and increased use of colour. Annual gatherings of diocesan editors with Toronto staff have been a highlight of Harvey's year. Ted Sancton of Studio Melrose, who does the layout with Harvey, says "I have enjoyed working with Harvey. He is so professional, and good-humoured. He has been a journalist all his life. We have frequently worked together into the evening."

Recent articles that Harvey has found to be both exciting and chal-



lenging have included refugee sponsorship, the election and consecration of a new bishop in Montreal and the arrival of a new church plant in the former St. James the Apostle, where the Rev. Graham Singh is

building a downtown community. Yes, Harvey gets around, and we have come to rely on his faithful reporting. He will be missed, like Columbo, for his formidable eye for detail and his dedicated approach

in every case! We wish him an enjoyable and well deserved retirement, with his wife, Jean, his daughter Andrea and son Hugh and their families, including three young grandchildren.

## Letters to the editor

### 'Church plants' reflect skewed priorities; let make faith the centre

*'Major grants from private donors, especially in Britain, expected to boost church plant.'* Anglican Montreal, January, 2016

I hate the term "church plant!" More precisely, I hate the industrial "factory" sense of the word "plant" that leaps out at me as I observe the priorities of much current Anglican practice.

Factories function according to the gospel of "economic efficiency." They produce mindless entities in huge quantities, all of which are the same, no one different from the others. They cannot evolve differently, possibly into something better. They cannot question their maker; they cannot suggest modifications as a result of having been "tried" over time. The goal of church factories is to convert the raw materials of the un-churched or the wrongly-churched into the homogeneously "righteously churched."

The latest Alpha-based attempt to fill inexorably emptying Anglican pews is driven by financial benchmarks rather than up-to-date theological insights. Parishes in traditional multi-generational rural and low-income urban communities with aging and declining numbers are having services cut where they are not abandoned altogether. Instead, a single congregational demographic segment – "young, urban professional and multicultural individuals and families" – is being target-marketed with upscale, stripped-down, evangelical theological *religiotainment*. Gone is a wholesale perpetual Anglican appeal to all current and future worshippers. **Some family-oriented**

Alpha courses deliberately exclude street people because they can be filthy, vulgar and smelly, rather than inviting them personally to attend, trusting that most, if not all of them, will respect the **concerned good will that inspires their welcomed contribution.**

"Anglican church plants" evoke in me images of factories stamping out "one-size-fits-all," frozen-in-time, two thousand year old theological bromides for mindless, unquestioning consumers, rather than thoughtful, discerning Christians, who, while they share significantly fewer common theological certainties, revel in the joy of their unique, personal visions of love for others and self.

If not "church plant," what else? How about "faith centre?" Faith is what makes life work. Faith is the centre of the Christian experience. To centre one's life, like faith, is a choice, a willful act. A centre is a gathering place of the faithful.

As informed "faith centres," Anglican churches will not just survive the future, they will thrive.

**FAITH: the CENTRE**

A. LAWRENCE HEALEY

*A. Lawrence Healey is a freelance writer living in Lachine*

### Views on Anglican survival more urgent than ever

Just over 50 years ago, famed Canadian journalist and author Pierre Berton and the Bishop of Woolwich, England, Dr. John Robinson, wrote prescient books, *The Comfortable Pew* and *Honest to God* respectively. *The Comfortable Pew*, a critique of Anglican belief and practice in Canada, was commissioned expressly by the ecclesiastical leadership of the

Anglican Church of Canada. *Honest to God* deals with the wider, underlying issue of Christian theology, the nature of God.

Both books could be written today for the issues they raise regarding Anglican Church survival persist unchanged to this very day. The only difference is the time frame for their resolution. Whereas back then survival could be measured in decades, today it is measured in terms of years, and in the case of individual parishes, sometimes in months.

The key to such resolution lies in the question evoked by Bishop Robinson's own musings upon the contribution of *Honest to God's* message when he wondered whether it was "radical enough."

The question? How can the Anglican Church's vision of God be more radically *inclusive of human differences* and experiences and their consequently different values in determining its own survival values and practices?

A. Lawrence Healey

*(This and his other letter above are Copyright, 2016, A. Lawrence Healey)*

### Are we reading the same Bible?

*(This letter responds to Dean Paul Kennington's comment, reproduced in the April issue, suggesting that the church get out of the marriage business, and to Brent Cowan's response in the May edition.)*

In responding to the Dean of Montreal, Brent Cowan faults the latter's perfectly even-tempered *pensée* as angry and uncharitable – all while misrepresenting the Dean's argument and repeatedly attacking his fitness for ordained ministry. The

kicker comes when the writer turns to Father Kennington's assertion that "Jesus was not an advocate of family life," which Mr Cowan takes as "sarcastic". Is he being sarcastic himself, or has he really not read the words of the Gospels (cf. Mt 12:50 and Lk 14:26)? Ironically Mr Cowan's letter is guilty of the very discussion-killing rhetoric it deplors. When I began reading it, I wondered if we were reading the same words by the Dean. By the end I was left uncertain that we are reading the same Bible.

Geoffrey McLarney lives in the Hochelaga district.

### Clarification

In an article in the April issue, the Rev. John Serjeantson discusses the impact on his own development of early childhood experiences many years ago. As written, the article mentions that his own birth was by "labour caesarean section." In other words, the decision to do a caesarean was made when his mother was already in difficult labour. In editing, the word "labour" was removed, something he feels distorts his meaning. The situation was more urgent and traumatic than if the decision for a caesarean had been made ahead of time.

# Another big day for la

## Sole ministerial grad has scholarly background and Otterburn Park man gets ecumenical certificate

Stanley Brooks added another academic credit to an already lustrous collection May 2 when he received a licentiate in theology and diploma in ministry from the Montreal Diocesan Theological College at its annual convocation.

A professor in the department of social science and commerce for

over 35 years at Marianopolis College in Montreal and founder and former chair of its geography department, he already had a string of academic credits including a Ph.D. from the faculty of education at McGill University.

Assuming all went well, Dr. Brooks was ordained as a deacon by Bishop Mary Irwin-Gibson on May 15 (after the publishing deadline for this issue) and will probably be ordained as a priest in another year or so.



Betty Ross, receiving an Education for Ministry diploma from the Bishop.



Dr. Brooks receiving his diploma from Bishop Mary Irwin-Gibson, president of Dio.



Dr. Brooks is second from left in the front row of a group of present and recent students and staff of the college.

## McGill “Faculty” of Religious Education becomes a “School”

*This announcement was recently added to the McGill University website:*

In May 2016, McGill’s longstanding commitments to religious studies and theology were renewed and expanded with the establishment of the School of Religious Studies in the Faculty of Arts. Building on its long history at McGill, the School of Religious Studies continues to provide a wide range of undergraduate and graduate programs in the academic study of religious traditions and theology.

Faculty members in the School of Religious Studies engage many methods and disciplines, combining the historically focused study of religious traditions with approaches that explore contemporary expressions of religions and public policy. We incorporate perspectives from history, sociology, anthropology,

philosophy, politics and literature, among others. We bring together the study of classical languages and texts with field research and ethnography in order to examine the rich diversity of religious traditions.

The School of Religious Studies is the home to McGill’s Initiative in Globalization and the World’s Religions and the Birks Forum on the World’s Religions and Public Policy. It is affiliated with the Montreal School of Theology. In 2013 a landmark gift from the Barbara and Patrick Keenan Foundation launched a series of major new developments including the establishment of the Keenan Chair in Interfaith Studies and a new flagship course “World Religions and the Cultures They Create.” The gift also funds a number of major fellowships and internships to provide formation and support for graduate and undergraduate students.



Glen Marcotte, the current president of the Montreal Lay Readers Association, received one of three Education for Ministry diplomas.



Education for Ministry is a program of theological education directed towards lay people. There are four years of study, yet participants commit for one year at a time, meeting in small groups with a trained mentor. The program combines academic study with integrative components to help participants take what they learn about Scripture, church history, theology and ethics into their own lives and hearts.

Our diocese welcomes new members for September 2016. The group meets at Montreal Diocesan Theological College on Wednesday evenings. Additionally, there is an EFM group that meets at Grace Church in Sutton on Tuesdays at 1 p.m. Prospective students are invited to register before July 15.

For more information contact Karla Holmes: holmeskarla@gmail.com

Or Afra Tucker: afratucker@dio-mdtc.ca

Or Tim Smart (Sutton): revtimsmart@gmail.com

# ity at Dio convocation



A stalwart of the tiny St. Martin's Parish in the South Shore community of Otterburn Park, Eric Fox, became the first recipient of the Certificate in Theology of the ecumenical Montreal School of Theology after completing a five-year postgraduate-level course. Here, he receives his certificate from the Rev. Dale Woods, director of the Montreal School of Theology and principal of Presbyterian College.



RoseMary Brinkema, warden and a pillar of long standing of the downtown Church of St. John the Evangelist, was one three candidates who received Education for Ministry diplomas after completing a demanding four-year course of theological education for lay people. Here she is with the bishop and two mentors in the program, the Rev. Karla Holmes and Afra Tucker.



## Green Churches Network returns to its origins

The Green Churches Network invites everyone its 10th-Anniversary Gala on June 3 at 6 p.m. at Saint Columba House, 365 Grand Trunk St. in the Point St. Charles district of Montreal, the United Church community centre where the network began.

Through this event, the Canadian ecumenical environmental organization wants to honour its participants and partners for the work they have accomplished over the past 10 years.

Representatives of churches and other religious and ecological organizations will be present. A four-course meal will be served, a pianist will play classical music and a magician will come to the guests' tables. The evening will begin with a cocktail and a retrospective of the growth of the Green Churches movement since its beginnings at Saint Columba House in 2006.

The Green Churches Network offers practical tools to faith communities that adopt environmentally aware practices through action and education and helps them rediscover an eco-spirituality rooted in the Christian tradition. The 50 registered churches of various denominations across the country have undertaken initiatives, from eliminating plastic dishes, cups and cutlery to composting and installing geothermal heating.

For more information: [www.gala.greenchurches.ca](http://www.gala.greenchurches.ca) or 1-844-490-6464.

The Rev. Lettie James became the first woman ordained as a priest in the Diocese of Montreal in 1978, but it was two years, rather than the usual one year, earlier that she was ordained as a transitional deacon on the Feast of Pentecost. We mentioned that in last month's issue. We also requested a photo and Canon James (as she is now) found us one of her in her diaconal vestments among her personal memorabilia. But it didn't quite make our deadline. Here it is now.

**MILE-END**  
**25**  
1991-2016

*Come celebrate the Mission's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary at our Open House*

**Saturday June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

*from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m*

**BBQ, live outdoor music, community art project, special guests...**

**Add your personal Mission story and photos to our growing collection of memories.**

**If you've never visited the Mission before, this is a great opportunity to**

**come see what we're all about!**

**P.S. Please Save the Date**

**for our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual 'Mission-Possible Chef's Soirée: September 26<sup>th</sup>**

For more information, please visit our web-site: [www.mileendmission.org](http://www.mileendmission.org)  
Our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/Mile-End-Community-Mission-124798810880527/>  
and use the hashtag #Mission25 to share your personal Mission memories

## B.C. priest speaks to lay readers



The Rev. Danny Whitehead, priest in the small community of Scw'xmx in the Territory of the People, known until recently as the Anglican Parishes of the Central Interior (of British Columbia), was this year's speaker at the annual retreat of the Lay Readers Association of the Diocese of Montreal. Here he is photographed with the Rev. Lorne Eason, pastor of the lay readers. This year's theme was "A ministry of presence: serving the marginalized." (Photo: Susan Winn)

## Comment

### Out of sight, out of mind

*This article was written by a volunteer for Communitas, a ministry to people who have been in prison, and is reprinted from its newsletter.*

Once upon a time I lived in Kingston, Ont., which may be one of the few cities in Canada where the prison system is undeniably, immediately, and obviously present. You couldn't go anywhere in the city without being reminded of it: passing between the central part of town and the western suburbs usually gave you a view of Collins Bay institution, the second floor of a friend's home looked onto the intimidating façade of the Prison for Women, and I frequently had to walk down King street under the seemingly endless walls of Kingston penitentiary. I couldn't live so close to these buildings, each endowed with an architecture designed to send a message, and not spend a significant portion of my day wondering about the lives of the people inside.

It was only after I moved to Montreal that I realized that an awareness of prisons, and discussions of issues facing prisoners, can be limited when you don't seek them

out. Prisons do not form a formidable component of Montreal's urban landscape, and most people have few interactions with prisoners themselves; in Montreal it seems unfortunately easy to forget about these institutions and the people held in them.

This easy invisibility of prisoners troubles me. Morally, I suspect we all have an obligation to be conscious of prisons and the issues facing prisoners if only because society has taken on such an extraordinary amount of responsibility for their lives. It seems impossible that such a powerful intervention could be justified without a clear understanding and consciousness of what that intervention entails. Clearly, we don't want more prisons, but we do need to be cautious about institutions that, due to reduced visibility, can pass unquestioned. As a city (and more broadly, as a society) we should work harder at being conscious of the lives of prisoners, and by far the best way to do that is to listen to the stories they want to share with us about themselves, and to listen for all the other whispers of voices that are harder to hear.

## Spirituality

### Making retreat

**Discerning the riches of a radical dependence on the love of God**

ROBERT CAMARA

*Robert Camara is the parish priest of St. George's Church in Châteauguay and synod co-ordinator of the Diocese of Montreal.*

*Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.*

MATTHEW 11:28-30

I have tried to make the practice of taking a retreat once or twice a year a part of my regular spiritual discipline. It's easy for a parish priest, to be caught up in the day-to-day rhythm of the community so that times for personal healing, growth and refreshment may be pushed aside in order to look after the spiritual and communal needs of those we are called to journey with on their own pilgrimage in life. So, the practice of making retreat allows me the opportunity to seek to be more available to God and enter more fully into the life God has called me. But, in reality, making retreat is a good discipline for everyone – an opportunity to find rest, and seek out, discern and restore relationship with God.

This past April, post-Easter, after what was a full, demanding and enriching Holy Week and Easter experience, I travelled to Massachusetts to make retreat with a number of other clergy from the Episcopal Church and the brothers of the Society of Saint John the Evangelist. I found myself arriving at Emery House, nestled on the border of the countryside towns of West Newbury and Newburyport, somewhat exhausted, but looking for the opportunity to refill the empty well. This idyllic setting – a historic country house and several hermitages on

144 acres of rolling land and forest, bounded by the Merrimack River on the north and the Artichoke River on the east, made for a perfect opportunity to retreat from the daily routines, noises and demands of life in Châteauguay and Montreal and into an atmosphere of silence, nature and prayer. The experience of silence and prayer was an opportunity to deepen our solidarity in the Spirit – silence in meals, silence in community, silence in prayer, silence in solitude, silence with nature.

Making retreat was an opportunity for me to experience the intimacy that we have with God through our union with Christ by setting aside those things that are "useful" but sometimes distracting – the cell phone, the (physical) office, the lists of things to do, the appointments and demands of daily life. Instead, the inner silence of retreat allowed for a fulfilment of communion with God that went beyond my daily prayer life. Intentional retreat time is an opportunity to delve deeper than what lies on the surface of our hearts, and allows us to experience another form of authentic meeting with God.

The emptiness of retreat time, the silence, the prayer, the solitude and the community compelled me to delve deeper, listen more attentively, struggle with the questions, seek



Brother Curtis, SSJE, herds geese on the Emery House property.

healing of wounds and celebrate the primacy of the love of God. It's not easy – that silence, that solitude, that authentic listening will bring up what really rests at the core of your heart, your mind, your soul and your spirit. Making retreat will allow you the opportunity to wrestle with it, pray through it and offer it to God.

What a good retreat will allow the retreatant to do is to refresh and heal and to discern the riches of a radical dependence on the love of God. And so it was, that returning northbound to home, community and Diocese, I found my mind cleared, my body refreshed, my soul strengthened and my spirit encouraged as I continue to listen and discern God's call in my life and community to share the love of God with those around us.

Consider making retreat a regular practice in your life if it isn't already. Check out some of the religious communities in and around our Diocese that can help you in that practice. (You could try the website of the Society of Saint John the Evangelist at [ssje.org](http://ssje.org), for one.)



Some retreatants Father Robert Camara is third from right and Brother Curtis of the host Society of Saint John the Evangelist is at the far right.

## News in brief

### Violence hits area where Montrealers are serving

The Gambella region of western Ethiopia, where former Bishop Grant LeMarquand and his wife, Dr. Wendy LeMarquand, former Montrealers, have been serving as missionaries, has been the scene of intertribal conflict, with deaths reportedly running into the hundreds.

Reports of the conflict have appeared on the website of the Anglican Diocese of Egypt with North Africa and the Horn of Africa, in an email newsletter sent to supporters from Bishop Grant and Dr. Wendy and in secular media.

Bishop Grant LeMarquand is

area bishop of the diocese for the Horn of Africa, serving under Archbishop Mounier Anis of the Diocese of Egypt with North Africa and the Horn.

The latest clashes took place after the interview with Archbishop Mounier reported in this issue.

### John Edwin Majka served in Eastern Montreal, Valleyfield

The Rev. John Edwin Majka, retired priest in the Diocese of Montreal, died peacefully, surrounded by his loving family on Sunday, April 24, in Orleans, Ont., aged 91 years.

He was educated in England and was ordained a deacon in 1964 and priest in 1965 by Bishop Ernest Reed

of Ottawa. He served as assistant at St. Richard's, Ottawa, as incumbent at the Île Perrot-Dorion Mission from 1966 and as rector of St. Cuthbert, Montreal, from 1968. He was regional dean of Eastern Montreal between 1980 and 1986. He was (semi-retired) priest-in-charge of St. Mark's Valleyfield between 1989 and 1998.

He was a part-time chaplain at the Montreal General Hospital in 1991 and 1992 and at Ste Anne's Military Hospital between 1993 and 1996.

He retired in 1998 and spent his remaining years at the Madonna Long Term Care Facility in Ottawa. He was predeceased by his wife, Janet.



Bishop Mary was at Saint George's, Châteauguay on Sunday, April 24, for a Confirmation as the parish celebrated Saint George's Day. (From left are confirmands Colin Cornelow, Alex Cornelow and Darlene Murphey-Lannon with their sponsors, as well as Bishop Mary and Father Robert Camara.)



# Anglican archbishop describes challenges in Egypt, North Africa and the Horn

## He's a doctor with Coptic roots

JONATHAN WIDELL

*Jonathan Widell is a student at the Montreal Diocesan Theological College and a member of the parish of St. John the Evangelist. He visited Tunisia for about a week and was able to interview Archbishop Mouneer Hanna Anis, Anglican bishop of the Diocese of Egypt since 2000 and primate of the Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East (with the title of archbishop) since 2007. He will retire as primate next year in accordance with the rules of the province. The interview took place at St. George's Church, Tunis, where the archbishop was on a pastoral visit.*

*The transcript by Mr. Widell has been edited and condensed. Early in the discussion, the archbishop, a 66-year-old Egyptian who had a medical career before being ordained as a deacon and priest in 1998 and 1999 and bishop in 2000 elaborated on his jurisdiction.*

**Archbishop Mouneer:** The province is called Jerusalem and the Middle East. There are four dioceses in the province. The diocese of Jerusalem, the diocese of Egypt, the diocese of Cyprus and the diocese of Iran. Jerusalem involves Jordan Syria, Lebanon and Palestine. Egypt involves North Africa and the Horn of Africa. Cyprus involves Iraq, the Gulf and [a number of smaller states]. And every five years, we elect a primate and the primate can have the title of archbishop.

**Widell:** So this is your second term? Is that the maximum?

**Archbishop Mouneer:** That is the maximum. It is ten years, which is quite enough.

**Widell:** So you've had your hands full since 2007. There have been a lot of interesting things happening.

**Archbishop Mouneer:** Yes, yes. [The interview touched on Canon Andrew White, who was the vicar of St George's Church, Baghdad, the only Anglican church in Iraq, until his departure for the sake of security and who has been called the "Vicar of Baghdad."]

**Archbishop Mouneer:** His superior is the Bishop of Cyprus and the Gulf. But I visited Canon Andrew White, when he was in Baghdad, with Bishop Michael Lewis, Bishop of Cyprus and the Gulf.

**Widell:** Are you a so-called cradle Anglican? Were you born an Anglican?

**Archbishop Mouneer:** I was not born Anglican. Our roots are Coptic Orthodox. When I was a child I used to go to the Coptic Orthodox as well as the Presbyterian Church. In 1979 I went to work as a medical doctor in an Anglican hospital close to Cairo. because I am a medical doctor by profession.

I went there and I really admired very much the Anglican Church, the Anglican way being reformed and Catholic at the same time. I loved this and I became an Anglican then.

**Widell:** Can you tell us a bit more about your conversion?

**Archbishop Mouneer:** I gave my life to the Lord in 1971 and became a follower of Jesus.

**Widell:** In the Coptic Church?

**Archbishop Mouneer:** I was at that

time in a house church, which is more evangelical. And in 1979 when I went to work in the Anglican hospital, I was exposed to the Anglican tradition, the Anglican way and the Anglican Church. I liked the fact that the Anglicans are like one communion and one body, a big family, and they know each other and they love each other. There is a bond of affection that gathers them all together. I also like the fact that they keep that tradition of the church catholic or the church universal. So they keep the catholicity of the church but they also have reformed theology. So this combination is very unique and it is very attractive because everyone can find a home in the Anglican Church.

**Widell:** In what year was that?

**Archbishop Mouneer:** In 1979. The bishop at that time asked me to lead the Morning Prayer in the hospital. The hospital was next door to a big church, St. Mark's Church, and there was no priest. He said: I want you to look after the church as a lay minister. I started to learn and to prepare and to follow and for 15 years I was responsible for that church as a lay minister. So I was self-taught. I would read and read and read and read in order to become a lay pastor of the church. I did many of this by correspondence. And then, a priest would come every month to do Holy Communion in the church but the rest of the month I and my colleagues, doctors, were looking after that church as well as the hospital.

[The archbishop noted that he was ordained deacon in 1998, priest in 1999 and bishop in 2000.

[The conversation turned to Libya, where at one time Bishop Bill Musk, now retired but then based in Tunis, used to travel as an area bishop.]

**Archbishop Mouneer:** I did not replace Bishop Bill Musk when he retired. Of course, the area is not as viable as it was in 2008. In 2008 the church in Libya was pretty big. The situation in Libya was good.

So Bishop Bill used to travel to Libya, Algeria and to stay here and so on. But now Libya is not an easy place. And I am praying about the future but certainly I would love to have an area bishop in North Africa.

**Widell:** I imagine that pretty much everybody in the Anglican Church left who could after Muammar Gaddafi was dead. He was killed and the situation got very bad afterwards

**Archbishop Mouneer:** Yes, we have two congregations in the church in Tripoli in Libya. One mainly Asian: Indian, Pakistani. And another one which is African: Nigerian. We have one church with two congregations. The Asian congregation is about 100. That's not bad. And we have a priest who is Indian and we have a priest for the Nigerians, for the Africans, about 50 members. Unfortunately, he is going to Canada now.

This visit is the first visit after Bishop Bill Musk retired so I am assessing the situation now.

**Widell:** You are going to Algeria?

**Archbishop Mouneer:** I am going to Algiers. Tomorrow.

**Widell:** Have you been in Libya too?

**Archbishop Mouneer:** No, travelling to Libya is still a problem.

**Widell:** The Rev. [Graham] Singh [the priest at the new St. James Plant in Montreal] told me that he had met



*you when you came to Oxford with the Grand Mufti of Egypt. Is that part of a bigger interfaith dialogue between the Muslims and the Anglicans?*

**Archbishop Mouneer:** The Anglican Church in Egypt is very much involved in interfaith dialogue. We work very closely and at all levels. At religious leaders' level and at the grassroots level.

**Widell:** Can you give us examples?

**Archbishop Mouneer:** The religious leaders' level means that we have dialogue, theological dialogue and understanding and discussing the burning issues that currently threaten the unity and the harmony between religions, like violence, terrorism, extremism. These issues we discuss when we sit in the religious leaders' meeting. When we come to grassroots interfaith dialogue, there are two levels as well. One is our community services. We engage with the Muslim society in our hospitals, schools, community development, literacy classes, micro-enterprises.

This is a way for us to go and serve and love our neighbour. At the other level, young people, Muslims and Christians, come together to learn photography, to build their capacity about vocational training, and also art, painting, calligraphy, music, singing. All these things. We open our churches and welcome Christians and Muslims to get involved in this. And when they get involved in this, they get to know each other more and a lot of misconceptions are alleviated because of the contact. Before that – although we have been coexisting with each other for 14 centuries – we lack the real integration and the real working-together kind of things. These projects we do help in creating religious harmony and help us to have friendly relations between us and our neighbours.

**Widell:** And is that in Egypt or is that in the whole province?

**Archbishop Mouneer:** The province as well, in Jerusalem, in Cyprus and the Gulf and in Iran. This is just an

example of Egypt, of what we do. We call it Building Bridges.

**Widell:** Have there been any attacks on the Anglican churches that you know of?

**Archbishop Mouneer:** No.

**Widell:** I have to ask one final question. This homosexuality issue. What is actually the problem? Is it the ordination of homosexual priests or is it the homosexuality? Can you explain that one more time? Because I understand that homosexuality is a really tough issue but there have been so many controversial issues that have been made in the church before like the ordination of women and of divorced people. Is this a development of a longer history or does it all happen all at once?

**Archbishop Mouneer:** We are aware that there are people with different homosexual orientations. And we love these people. We are not homophobic. We respect them. But homosexual orientation is one thing and homosexual practice is another. We are not homophobic. However, we are also aware that God's purpose in creation is to create man and woman so that they can complement each other and they can multiply and they can work out the earth and the resources of creation together. And we see that being involved in homosexual practice is actually contrary to God's purpose in creation. We understand that women and men can complement each other physically, emotionally and socially and that's why God created them to be able to have intimate relations and marry. It is only after the fall of man that man started to treat the women in suppression, and to suppress women and to treat women as property of men. It is after the fall that man started to enslave his brother so we started to see slavery. We started to see oppression of women and suppression but this is not God's purpose at Creation. God's purpose at Creation is that there is no slavery, God's purpose at Creation is that there is equality and that they complement each other. It is only after the fall that these things happen.

## Confirmation at St. Stephen's, Lachine May 8



The Rev. Shirley Smith, Jaden Victor, Bishop Mary, Tarshana Garcia, The Rev Deacon Mary Pickup.

## Books

# Father of synod archivist drafted memoir in Evin Prison

Joseph Heskell Koukou: *The Book: A Humble Quest into the Hebrew Scriptures*, edited and illustrated by Sandra Koukou: Author House, Bloomington, Ind., 2015, ISBN 978-1-4969-0203-0 (hardcover)

NOTED BY HARVEY SHEPHERD

The administrative assistant for archives in the diocesan synod office, Sandra Koukou, has been devoting some of her seemingly inexhaustible energy to promoting a book by her father, Joseph Heskell Koukou, published last year – largely as a result of Sandra's efforts on its behalf. She was buoyed recently when the municipal library in Lachine, where she lived, asked for her help in getting a copy.

As well as seeing to the publication of the book, she edited it, contributed a painting for the cover and line drawings to illustrate the text and wrote an introduction and passages of the text.

The book has received some favourable mentions from members of the Jewish community, especially ones with origins in the Jewish communities, now almost nonexistent, of Iraq and Iran.

The book is a combination of personal memoir, history – both in Biblical times and the modern Middle East – and commentary on scripture, theology, mysticism and politics. Much of it was drafted during about four and half years when its author was incarcerated in Tehran's notorious Evin Prison, threatened with execution, just after the 1979 revolution of the ayatollahs. This was notwithstanding the untiring and nerve-racking efforts of his daughter, then in her 20s, to intervene with the authorities on his behalf.

He escaped from Iran in 1986 and died in the United States in 2012.

Sandra describes her father's book as "an uplifting memoir of wrongful incarceration and narrow

escape from execution by the theocratic regime of post-revolutionary Iran." This imprisonment became "a spiritual journey re-meditating the Hebrew Bible to fellow prison inmates" and this led to "profound insight about history's fulfillment of biblical prophecy."

The book sells for about \$35 hardcover, \$25 softcover, and information is available at [www.authorhouse.com](http://www.authorhouse.com) or from Sandra in the Synod office.

## Spiritual direction

Individual spiritual direction is available in this diocese. For information or a confidential interview with one of the matchers, write [sdgroupmontreal@yahoo.ca](mailto:sdgroupmontreal@yahoo.ca) or call 514-768-7807.



## Notable

### Oasis Musicale

#### Concerts at Christ Church Cathedral 635 St. Catherine St. W.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1, 6:30 P.M.

#### Motherhood and lullabies

La Chorale Harmonia:

Amelia McMahon, artistic director, Pamela Reimer, piano  
Works by Johannes Brahms and many others.

SATURDAY, JUNE 4TH, 4:30 P.M.

#### I Love Life! Program of Scottish, English and Irish songs and melodies from Broadway musicals.

Douglas Renfroe, baritone; Nataliya Labiau, piano

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8TH, 6:30 P.M.

#### Recital for cello and piano

Noemy Braun, cello, Sanaz Sotoudeh, piano

SATURDAY, JUNE 11TH, 4:30 P.M.

#### An afternoon with Claude Debussy / Un après midi avec Claude Debussy

Barbara Heath Lopez, Soprano, Shirley Wu, piano  
Program to include Cinq mélodies populaires Grecques by Ravel

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15TH, 6:30 P.M.

#### Une heure en Europe / One Hour in Europe

Rémi Collard and Catharine Calderone, hautbois / oboes  
Judy Hung, piano, clavecin, violon / piano, harpsichord, violin  
Works by: Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach and others

SATURDAY, JUNE 18TH, 4:30 P.M.

#### Woman's Love and Life: Music of Robert Schumann

Colleen Bartley, mezzo-soprano, Laurretta Altman piano, Graeme Wilkinson, piano

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 22ND, 6:30 P.M.

#### Songes d'une nuit d'été / A Midsummer's Night Dream

Catherine St-Arnaud, soprano, Romain Pollet, piano  
Works by: Debussy, Verdi, Britten, Poulenc

SATURDAY, JUNE 25TH, 4:30 P.M.

#### Calm and Civil Unrest

Ronée Boyce, piano

Works by: Ludwig van Beethoven, Isaac Albeniz, Maurice Ravel,  
Leos Janáček and Frédéric Chopin

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29TH, 6:30 P.M.

#### Soirée Jazz

Amelia McMahon Trio

Amelia McMahon, vocals – Chad Linsley, piano – Scott Kingsley, bass

save the date!  
tuesday  
oct 25

prayers of  
the people  
in action!

come and meet representatives  
from community organizations and  
learn about volunteer opportunities  
for your parish

with wine and refreshments  
5:30 - 8pm in fulford hall  
1444 union montreal



# Spiritual Calendar

**FOOD FOR BODY AND SOUL**  
**All Saints Deux Montagnes**  
 248 18th Avenue, in the church hall.  
**Sundays June 4 and July 2, 9:30 a.m.**  
 Monthly breakfast. Info: 450-473-9541 or info@allsaintsdeuxmontagnes.ca.

**WEEKLY DROP-IN CENTRE**  
**St. James Rosemere**  
 328 Pine St.  
**Wednesdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.**  
 Note: June 22 is the last Wednesday for the season; the centre will resume Sept. 7. Winston Fraser is your host. Drop in for a coffee and stay for soup and fellowship. The Church is open for quiet reflection and prayer.

**CHRISTIAN MUSIC CONCERT**  
**Santa Cruz Church**  
 69 Rachel St. W., Montreal  
**Friday, June 3, 7 p.m.**  
 "Let's sing with joy and love for peace" Sponsored by the Canadian Centred for Ecumenism. Featuring the Imani Gospel Singers, la Chorale de l'Église portugaise Santa Cruz, la Chorale de l'Église arménienne Sourp Hagop, Æternal Ministries.

**SUNDAY SERVICE**  
**St. James Rosemere**  
 328 Pine St.  
**Every Sunday, 9 a.m.**  
 Information: 450-621-6466 or info@stjamesrosemere.ca

**ANNIVERSARY SERVICE**  
**St. Stephen's Lachine**  
 25 12th Ave.  
**Sun. June 12, 11 a.m.**  
 St. Stephen's will celebrate 185 years in the same location. Archdeacon Gordon Guy will be guest speaker at the 11 a.m. Eucharist. Other special guests are expected. Following the service, a light lunch will be held at the back of the church.

**BIBLE DAY CAMP**  
**All Saints Deux Montagnes**  
 248 18th Avenue  
**Mon.-Sun., July 11-17, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.**  
 A week of games, music and activities for elementary-school-aged children. Info: 450-473-9541 or info@allsaintsdeuxmontagnes.ca.

# From Oasis to Oases

STEVEN MACKISON

*The Rev. Steven Mackison is the rector of St. George's Place du Canada*

L'Oasis Musicale is coming to St. George's, Place du Canada. The weekly concert series, which began – and continues – at Christ Church Cathedral (currently on Saturdays and Wednesdays) will now be offered every Sunday at 2 p.m.

This shared initiative is more than just housing a concert series in yet another place; it is an expression of how we can work together as churches to further God's mission in our midst. The vision behind entering this partnership in ministry was inspired by a gathering of downtown clergy in January. The task was to discern how churches might work more closely together and share worship, program, and resources to add strength and vitality to ministry in the downtown core.

Oasis Musical's expansion represents the first fruits of these conversations. L'Oasis Musicale, in both its Christ Church Cathedral and St. George's incarnations, believes that the theme of providing the space where people can experience the beauty of music is an extension of the church's ministry. For, just as

oases are the places where travellers pause on their journey for repose and refreshment, L'Oasis Musicale is meant to slake the thirst of those longing for the sacred through the medium of music.

The hope of the people of St. George's is that this new partnership will foster deeper relationships between downtown churches and lead to other shared projects in mission. Who knows, maybe "Oasis spirituelles" or "Oasis pastorales," will soon spring-up.

Please join us at our launch event on June 5, at 2 p.m.. There will be a reception after our inaugural concert, featuring soprano Andréanne Brisson-Paquin.

The line-up for June is as follows:  
 • June 5th: Carte blanche à Andréanne Brisson-Paquin, soprano

- June 12th: Ensemble vocal À Contrevoix
- June 19th: Trio Triles: Folk music from Scotland, England and Quebec
- June 26th: Voice duets and String Quartet.

There is no charge or fee, these concerts are supported by the free-will donations of all who attend.

Let the Music begin, encore!

*Concerts in the L'Oasis Musicale series at Christ Church Cathedral currently take place at 4:30 p.m. Saturdays and 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays.*

## Notable

**Still Presence Meditation**  
**Summer Still Presence Meditation**  
 Still Presence is thrilled to offer  
 Meditation Sessions throughout the summer.  
 Come join us each Monday from 7 to 8 p.m.  
*Gatherings include sitting and walking meditation, a "heart talk," and a guided meditation*

**Developing attitudes that enable us to live more fully.**  
 "So we explore the mind, not to master it so much as to not be mastered by it." Stephen Levine, Guided Meditation, Explorations and Healings  
 Meditation Circles take place in the chapel of  
**Christ Church Beaurepaire** – 455 Church St. (at Fieldfare), Beaconsfield  
 For more details: 514-697-2204 – www.StillPresence.com

## Notable

**A Still Presence**  
**Half-Day Silent Retreat**  
**Nurturing Yourself**  
 with Cedric Cobb  
**Saturday, June 11, 1:30-4:30 p.m.**  
 St. James' Church Hall,  
 642 Main Road, Hudson, QC  
*"Unless you stop and let go of your ordinary concerns, the spirit cannot speak to you." – Stafford Whiteaker*  
 For more details  
 www.stillpresence.net.  
 About Our Retreat  
*The first rule of thumb when attending any meditation retreat is to enter it with absolutely no expectations at all, and to greet whatever might present itself with as much kindness as you can muster – Shell Fischer*

During this half-day silent retreat, we will explore a variety of meditative techniques, which nurture our whole selves, and cultivate our ability to live with more wisdom, mindfulness, and compassion.

The retreat takes place in the peaceful and spacious church hall of St. James' Church in Hudson. It includes silent and walking meditation, nurturing heart talks, and guided visualizations for inner health and well-being. For our walking meditations, we will stroll the beautiful church grounds overlooking the Ottawa River.

Registration  
 The suggested donation is \$22. Pay by cheque or cash when you arrive. If the fee is a hardship for you, please contact Cedric. No one will be turned away.

To register (or more info), email cedric.c.cobb@gmail.com. By return email, you will receive a retreat schedule, plus directions to the St. James church hall. *The deadline for registration is June 6.*

## Notable

**St. George's Church**  
 23 Perrault Ave.  
 Ste. Anne de Bellevue, QC  
**2016 Fall Courses and Programs**

**DivorceCare**  
 Tuesdays 7 p.m.  
 September 13 – December 13

**GriefShare**  
 Tuesdays 7 p.m.  
 September 13 – December 13


**Boundaries**  
 Tuesdays 7 p.m.  
 October 4 – November 22

**Messy Church**  
 Once a month every fourth  
 Wednesday 5:00 pm

**Café@STG**  
 Thursdays  
 10: a.m. – 3: p.m.  
 September 22 – November 24

**Amplified Youth Group**  
 Fridays 7 p.m.  
*For information about these programs contact our office:*  
**514.457.6934**  
**office@stg.church**  
 Check out our courses, events and worship gatherings on:  
 www.stgeorgesanglicanchurch.org

## Notable



**Country Homes Tour**  
 60th Anniversary  
 Presented by St. James' Church Women, Hudson, QC  
**Thursday, June 2, 2016**  
 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
 Tour Tickets 30\$  
 on sale at:  
 Décors & Tissus Sérénité,  
 67 Cameron, Hudson 450 853-0635  
 Source Santé, 484A Main Road,  
 Hudson 450 458-7547  
 Boutique Alena Kirby,  
 3200 Harwood, Vaudreuil-Dorion  
 450 455-6156  
 Le Panier, 274 Lakeshore,  
 Pointe Claire 514 695-7038  
 by email:  
 hudsoncountryhomestour@gmail.com  
 Luncheon St. James' Church Hall  
 \$15  
 11h30 or 13h00  
*Please purchase luncheon tickets at the same time as Tour tickets.*  
 St. Mary's Church Hall  
 Café and muffin 3\$, 9 to 11  
 Luncheon \$15, 11:30 to 1:30  
 Please call ahead and book for large groups, 450 458-7913 / 7160

St. Lawrence Anglican Church  
 520 - 75e Avenue  
 LaSalle, Québec H8R 2P5  
 Tél.: (514) 366-4652



**12:00PM — 6:00PM**

**A Little Caribbean in LaSalle**  
**Un peu des Caraïbes à LaSalle**

Fish Fry	Fish Fry
Bakes Goods	Pâtisseries
Fine Caribbean Delicacies	Délicatesses des Caraïbes
Bingo	Bingo
Games for the Kids	Jeux pour les enfants

*For more information, please contact the church.  
 Pour plus d'information, s'il-vous plaît contactez l'église.  
 (514) 366-4652; stlawrence520@gmail.com*

## Sales & Events

**All Saints Deux Montagnes**  
 248 18th Avenue, parking lot or church hall, depending on weather  
**ANNUAL FLEA MARKET**  
**Sat. June 11, from 8 a.m.**  
 Table rental \$15. Call 450-473-9541 to reserve a table. Info: info@allsaintsdeuxmontagnes.ca.

**St. Lawrence LaSalle**  
 520 - 75th Avenue, on the church grounds  
**SUMMERFEST CELEBRATION**  
**Sat., June 18, 12 noon-6: p.m.**  
 Enjoy fine Caribbean delicacies, bingo, good music and activities for the kids! Info: 514-366-4652.

**St. James Rosemere**  
 328 Pine St.  
**CHRISTMAS IN JULY and CANADA DAY POT LUCK SUPPER**  
**Fri., July 1, from 4 p.m.**  
 Bring a dish to share. Wear red and white as well as something Christ-massy to celebrate our glorious and free country. In the Christmas spirit, please bring a non-perishable item for the needy in the community.

**All Saints Deux Montagnes**  
 248 18th Avenue  
**STRAWBERRY SOCIAL**  
**Sat. July 9, 2p.m.**  
 Information: 450-473-9541 or info@allsaintsdeuxmontagnes.ca.



There was quite a bumper of candidates confirmed by Bishop Mary Irwin-Gibson at St. Paul's Côtés des Neiges April 3. A parish photographer deemed it prudent to divide them into two groups. In one group are, from left, Marjorie Kellman (a lay reader), Titania Flemmings, Zachariah Flemmings, Jada McLean Leslie, Melisa McLean Roy, Theodore Lawrence, Dolores Cumerbatch



(in back), Bishop Mary Irwin-Gibson, Shemeka Duprey-James, Mondel Antoine, Vincent Jesse, Amanda Duprey-James, McLean Ritchie and Archdeacon James Bennett. In the other photo, Dolores Cumerbatch, Robert John (who served as the bishop's chaplain, the bishop, Kadeisha Carter, Shereisa McLean-Leslie, Archdeacon Bennett, Mondel Antoine.

# Around the parishes

## Called to Care in Hudson



The Parish of St James, Hudson, sponsored a concert in which funds were raised for both the church and Action Réfugiés Montréal. The evening provided guests with gourmet bites, wine and conversation as well as entertainment by Vivianne LaRivière and friends, including original compositions. Paul Clarke, executive director of Action Réfugié, spoke about its work over the years and the while local member of Parliament, Peter Schiefke, shared his experience working in African refugee camps. Hudson-area residents Annas (Andy) and Hanar Fakhri, who arrived in Canada years ago from Syria, spoke of how they and are struggling to assist Hanar's mother and brother to get out of refugee camps and to safety in Canada. With "Called to Care" as the theme, the evening was one of entertainment, information, participation and food which drew members of the community deeper into an awareness of the support that each person can bring to local issues. From left are Annas and Hanar Fakhri and Paula Ruttle and her husband Peter Schiefke. Vivianne LaRivière is at the piano. (Photo: James Armstrong)



Bishop Mary Irwin-Gibson confirmed Cody Rivard, Jasmine Rivard and Christopher Williams May 1 at St. Margaret of Antioch Church in St. Hubert. They are shown here with the Rev. Christopher Belle and the Rev. Linda Faith Chalk and parishioner Louise Kaluza, right.

## Jen Bourque revisits Cathedral

The Rev. Jen Bourque, who has been on maternity leave from her post as a chaplain at the Montreal Children's Hospital, has been temporarily serving as part-time associate priest at Christ Church Cathedral. She has overseen children's and parents'

ministries since May 1 and expects to return to the Children's August 1. Meanwhile, young Henry is a year old and is doing fine, as is his older brother Eliot. Jen was also appointed recently as chaplain of the Montreal Diocesan Theological College.

## Cathedral starts vegetable garden

One of the new projects at Christ Church Cathedral starting this spring is a vegetable garden, in space previously maintained by professional gardener. It is open to everyone.

Parishioners and others were invited to take home a little pot in late April, grow a little seedling, then bring it at the end of May to be planted in the garden.



There was a good turnout for a St. George's Day Social Tea on Saturday, April 23 at St. James' Rosemere. And there was lots of fellowship and tea. Carole Trudel put together the collage.